The Middletown Transcript

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MIDDLETOWN, DEL., MCH. 4, 1905.

A NEW BALLOT LAW

It now seems probable that the General Assembly will provide a new and simpler ballot law. The Democrats have agreed upon one measure and the Republicans upon another. There is slight difference between them. One serious objection to the Democratic measure is the requirement that the voter should place his ballot in an envelope and seal the latter before presenting it to the officers of election. THE TRANSCRIPT has been for years insisting upon a simpler and less expensive form of official ballot, and we have always contended that no better law could be passed than the old "Uniform Ballot law," retaining the features of the present law, requiring roping off the election room and keeping every one except the voter actually in the act of voting from approaching within thirty feet of the polls. As our readers probably know, the old law referred to, required each party to procure from the Clerk of the Peace the paper of which to print its ballots, which must be of a certain uniform size, hence, the name. Each party could then print as many ballots as it desired and arrange that these should be distributed as necessary. The voter could get tickets, and as many as he chose, at or before the time of his offering to vote. If before, he could take them to his home and "scratch," cut or fix his ballot to suit himself. If at the election room, he could take the tickets into the booths to fix it. This plan encourages independent voting, restricts bribery, reduces expense and simplifies all the many details of a present cumbersome ballot.

TOWN ELECTION

On Monday the voters of Middletown, or rather the white voters, as the charter limits the qualified voters to those who are white, will choose three Commissioners to serve two years, an Assessor, a Treasurer and an Alderman each to serve one year. There has been little interest displayed so far, and there are no active candidates for any of the offices. The selection of Town Commissioners should interest every tax-payer. Owing to the accumulation of a floating debt the last Board of Commissioners was compelled to so increase the tax rate that it became very burdensome, and even under the increased rate, not enough money was raised to pay all the outstanding bills. We hope that the right kind of men can be elected on Monday, so that the finances of the town may be once more put upon a "pay as you go" basis. By this we mean no reflection on any of the retiring members, as they have only labored under the load handed down to them by their predecessors. But a town of the size of Middletown with its wealth and advantages should not be under as high a tax rate as the City of Philadelphia, for instance, with all the expense and conveniences that it has. The tax rate should not exceed 80 cents, and we believe that with care and economy, together with a rigid collection of taxes that rate is ample.

SAFETY ON STEAMBOATS

"Congress has done something substantial in the way of providing for the safety of passengers on vessels, so far as that can be done by legislation. The loss of 1000 lives on the General Slocum has not in that respect been without effect.

"The steamboat inspection service is re-organized, to some extent, and given additional power, while the known defects in existing laws have been cured. Hereafter, according to an amendment adopted in the Senate, three-fourths of the crew of a passenger vessel must be men with at least three years' experience on the deck of a vessel on the Great Lakes or on the high seas, and over 19 years old. That assures an experienced crew, and not an aggregation of cheap landsmen, such as were aboard the General Slocum.

"Ocean steamships come under the supervision of the inspectors in the same way as local excursion boats. Heavy punishment is provided for lack of proper care on the part of those responsible for the condition and management of a passenger vessel, and for any person who contributes knowingly in any way to the violation of the laws concerning the safety of a vessel. Any person found in possession of a life preserver, which is for sale, that contains metal or other non-buoyant material, or who manufactures such articles, can be severely punished.

"That will make it impossible for a corporation to produce such alleged life-preseavers as were sold by a Camden concern containing metal to increase their weight. This legislation was needed, and it is gratifying to know that Congress did its best to meet the requirements of the situation."—*Phila. Press.*

PROSPECTS FOR FRUIT

"According to reports received at the Farmers' Institutes now being held throughout the state, the chances for a fruit crop in Delaware this year are excellent. Fortune again may smile upon the growers. The success of recent years has been due to the cold, hard, "old time" winters as they are called, which prevent the fruit buds from developing and thus endangering them.

"This year the winter has been colder than for many years, and for a time it was feared that the low temperature had destroyed the buds. Careful examinations show that no such fate has yet befallen the fruit. The danger line, however, has not yet been passed. Should we have a warm spell followed by cold the tender young buds would be in great peril. In the last year or so thousands of young peach orchards have been planted some of which will come into bearing this season. If the weather permits Delaware again may achieve her old-time fame in the production of peaches.

"The methods of distribution of the fruit are much better than they were during the old large crops. The science and skill of the agriculturists seem to have conquered or at least largely mitigated, the evils of the San Jose scale and other diseases; and altogether, if the weather is willing, the lot of the fruit-grower for another year ought to be a happy one.

"At the same time careful farmers are not going too heavy into the planting of peach orchards. It is better to have an orchard more as a side issue, because the present prices of wheat and corn—as Editor Wilson of near Dover recently pointed out—make that branch of agriculture profitable.

"Dollar wheat and fifty cent corn were considered years ago as the high water mark for profitable agriculture even in Delaware grain farms, and our farmers have been blessed with both."—*Morning News.*

SASSAFRAS

Mrs. Temperance Ford is somewhat improved.

Mrs. Robert S. Griffith was taken ill on Tuesday.

Miss Beulah Crawford visited Mrs. Thomas Shallcross on Friday and Saturday.

Miss Buelah Crawford, of Wilmington, visited her old home near Warwick, last week.

Mrs. Robert S. Griffith was entertained on Thursday last by Mrs. Elwood Robinson.

Mrs. Jesse Shepherd, of Middletown, visited her mother, Mrs. B. Caulk, on Monday last.

Mr. Alexander T. Laws has been a great sufferer for the past two weeks with a case of grip.

Mr. David Stewart, of Smyrna, has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Griffith for the past fortnight.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Griffith and two little daughters visited relatives in Middletown on Friday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun who have been very ill for some weeks, we are pleased to state, is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Griffith entertained for dinner on Friday last Mr. David Stewart, of Smyrna.

Mr. Smith Burris is lying seriously sick at the home of his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sylvester.

Mr. W. Vandyke, of Wilmington who has been visiting his sister, Judge and Mrs. Morris has been very ill for two weeks.

Mr. W. Slaughter and son, of Dover, was entertained last week by his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Robinson, near town.

Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Robinson and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hodson and family are very sick at their homes near town.

Messrs. Harry Griffith and David Stewart were entertained on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griffith, of near Cecilton.

Mr. Fred Boyles, of near Middletown, visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Custus Price near town, from Saturday until Tuesday.

Mrs. M. Toulson, of near Glagow, is at the bedside of her father, Mr. Smith Burris, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Sylvester.

Messrs. Robert S. Griffith and R. G. Clift attended the Fourth Quarterly Conference of Mt. Olivit M. P. Church, Warwick, on Tuesday, February 28th, and report a most delightful session.

ST. GEORGES

Miss Lucie Hill was in Newark last Friday.

Mrs. Milligan visited Middletown on Monday.

Mr. G. H. Swain spent last Saturday in Wilmington.

Miss Sara Milligan spent Saturday in Wilmington.

Mr. C. A. Stitler was in Wilmington on Saturday.

Mrs. Margretta Jackson is visiting her daughter Mrs. George Hill.

Miss Mollie Taylor spent Wednesday with friends in Delaware City.

Miss Anna Moore is visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. John Moore.

Misses Anna Stewart and Lucie Hill spent Tuesday in Delaware City.

Miss Ida Murry is visiting her uncle Mr. William Calhoun and family.

Miss Beulah Dawson has returned home after a visit to friends in Philadelphia.

Miss Maud Clark went to Wilmington Saturday to take the teachers' examination.

George Stewart, of Philadelphia, is the guest of his uncle, J. H. Stewart and family.

Miss Bessie Webb, of Kennedyville, Md., is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Buckson.

Harry Gray, of Philadelphia, was the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery Gray.

Irving Gray, of Red Lion, spent a part of this week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Gray.

Mr. Bayard Heisel, of Delaware City, has been the guest of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heisel.

The light committee will hold a supper on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, March 14th and 15th.

Mrs. J. B. Vail and son Frank, of near Delaware City, spent Tuesday with her sister Mrs. G. H. Swain.

Miss Bessie Phillips, of Port Penn, and Mr. Richard Moore, spent Sunday with Mr. James Moore and family.

Miss Effie White, of Deakyneville, spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. John White.

Miss Blanch Jones, Harold Batten and Benjamine Simmons, spent Sunday with Miss Mattie Murry at her home in Choate.

Miss Annie Heary, of Wilmington, spent several days this week with her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heisel.

Mrs. Hendrickson, of Delaware City, and Mr. McGargle, of Marshallton, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Buckson on Monday.

Miss Bessie Jones who is taking a course at Goldey College, Wilmington, spent Saturday and Sunday with her mother Mrs. Laura Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Swain entertained on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lester, of Delaware City, and Mr. William Downey and Miss May Carey, of Wilmington.

Theodore Jones, road commissioner, has had a full force of men at work for the past week, opening the roads which have been blocked since the blizzard. All roads under his supervision are now open.

On account of failing health Joseph Heisel, who has owned and operated the wheelwright and blacksmith shops for the past thirty-nine years, has sold out the business to William J. Gamble of Wilmington.

The mad dog scare is almost a thing of the past, as there has been no further developements, since the dog that ran amuck on Sunday morning was killed. The majority of the people that knew their dogs had been bitten had them shot.

While viewing what is known as the Newton property, William L. Gamble of Wilmington, went to the cellar and fell in a vault, splitting his ear. It was dressed by A. N. Sutton until he could get back to Wilmington where he could have some stitches taken.

ICE IN THE RIVER

Since the weather has moderated the ice in the Delaware River and Bay is thawing, and is doing all kinds of damage causing the masters and pilots much apprehension and making it almost impossible for even the largest steamers to navigate. The shore ice is slowly dropping off and having been piled high by the wind and tide, is moving down the river in regular bergs that equal in size some of the icebergs seen at sea, as they come floating down from the north. Already several steamers have been seriously crippled, two damaged to such an extent that they had to be run aground, and many others held in port, the captains fearing to venture out.

WASHINGTON

March 9th is the date on which will be run the next Personally-Conducted Tour of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Washington. This tour will cover a period of three days affording ample time to visit all the principal points of interest at the National Capital, including the Congressional Library and the new Corcoran Art Gallery. Rate covering railroad transportation for the round trip and hotel accommodations, $13.00 or $10.50 from Trenton, and proportionate rates from other points, according to hotel selected. Rates cover accommodations at hotel for two days. Special side trip to Mount Vernon.

All tickets good for ten days, with special hotel rates after expiration of hotel coupon.

Similar tours will be run on March 23d, April 5th and 24th, and May 18th.

For itineraries and full information apply to Ticket Agents; or address Geo. W. General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

SALES TO TAKE PLACE

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 1905.—Public sale of stock, farm implements &c., by W. S. Ellison, agt., at his residence on the "Fairmount Farm," on the road from St. Georges to Delaware City. Geo. W. Padley, auctioneer.

THE TRANSCRIPT, $1.00 per year.

CECILTON

Mrs. Catharine Smith is better at this writting.

Miss Elsie Spear spent a few days of the past week in Middletown.

Harry Kelly, of Wilmington, spent one day this week with friends in town.

Miss Hylie Boulden was the guest of Mrs. D. H. Short, of Warwick, last week.

Rev. Alfred Smith the Temperance Evangelist, of Dover, had charge of the service here on Sunday afternoon.

Rev. W. A. Coale will preach a sermon to the people to-morrow at the Chapel at 11 o'clock. All are invited to attend.

Messrs. Charles and Gaylard Myers, of Chester, spent a few days of the past week with their brother, Mr. Fred Myers.

The Missionary Anniversary will be held in the M. E. Church to-morrow evening at 7.30 o'clock. All are invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Myers, of New York City, and Mrs. Dora Noland, of Media, Pa., attended the funeral of their mother, Mrs. Margaret Myers, on Friday afternoon.

THE TRANSCRIPT, $1.00 per year.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY, ss.
THE STATE OF DELAWARE.
TO THE SHERIFF OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, GREETING:—

Whereas, Mary E. Robinson by her Petition to the Judges of our Superior Court, filed in the office of the Prothonotary of said Court in and for New Castle
[Seal] County, for the cause of complaint therein alleged, has made application to our said Judges that a decree may be pronounced dissolving the marriage existing between the Petitioner and Harry K. Robinson.

We, therefore, command you, as you were heretofore commanded, that you summon Harry K. Robinson, that he be and appear before the Judges of our said Court at the next term thereof to be held at Wilmington, on Monday, the Twenty-second day of May next to answer the allegations of the said petitioner, Mary E. Robinson, according to the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, and also to do and receive what the Court shall then and there consider concerning him in this behalf as to the Court shall seem meet and consistent with the provisions of the said Act of Assembly.

And have you then there this writ.
Witness the Honorable Chas. B. Lore, at Wilmington, the Sixth day of February A. D. nineteen hundred and five.

FRANK L. SPEAKMAN,
Issued Mch. 2d, 1905. Prothonotary.

Clearance Sale

BEGINS FIRST WEEK IN MARCH.

500 yards of Towel Crash at - 5c
500 yards pure Linen Crash, 8 and 10c
500 Towels, cotton and linen, 5c and up
12 and 15 Pillow Cases to go at 8 and 10c
Favorite Seamless Sheets, at - 45c
Sheets with seams, - - - 41c

Special Bargains in Table Linen and Napkins.

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Nice Fat Smoked Herring 23c doz
Mackerel, 5c each, 10 lb for 25c lb
Good lean Breakfast Bacon 15c lb
Dried Lima Beans 10c qt

FRESH FISH

From now until warm weather comes, we are going to handle a line of Fresh Fish: STEAK COD, HADDOCK, SMELTZ, CISCOES, WHITINGS, ETC.

A few nicely fried Cod Steaks makes a welcome change to those who are tired of eating the regular meats of the season. Stop in and see us, you will always see something of interest to you at the corner store, occupied by

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Many beautiful and new designs have been conceived, and the patterns and colors are such as will make up handsomely in the new Spring suits. The advance arrivals now on display represent the choicest that will be shown this year. You might as well have the pick of this assortment as your neighbor, and then it is so much more comfortable shopping now than it will be later on when every one is on the same errand.

Besides it costs no more to shop now than it will later on. Better come before the best has been picked. There may be some patterns that we may not be able to duplicate.

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Early Spring Order Should Come To-Day Because it is the Best White

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	Each	Dozen	Hundred	Thousand
First Class, 5 to 6 feet	$0.30	$3.00	$14.00	$120.00
First Class, medium, 4 to 5 feet	.24	2.50	12.00	110.00
First Class, light, 3 to 4 feet	.20	2.00	11.00	100.00
First Class, branched, 2 1-2 to 3 feet	.16	1.50	9.00	80.00

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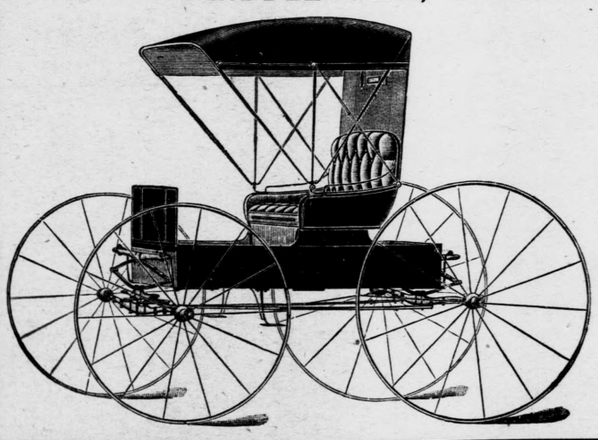

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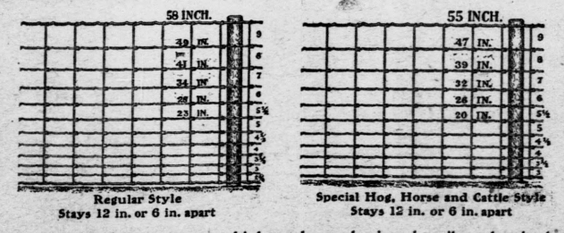

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. . . . The Mystery of Lady Verriker . . . .

BY VIOLET M. FLINN

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK]

He paused, and fumbled in his pocket till he produced a neat cardcase. He handed me his card with a little bow. It bore a very familiar name to me—that of a well-known journalist.

"You are Mr. Ollett!" I exclaimed, and he bowed affirmatively. "Then I am quite sure that I may show you the short cut across the park—if you do not care to come up to the Court?"

He refused at once.

"I am not in visiting trim," he said; "and I am really very pressed for time. If you would be so kind as to put me in the right way I should be very much obliged, and I must hope to have the pleasure of meeting Lady Verriker at some future time."

It was a long walk across the park, but Mr. Ollett made himself so very agreeable that I did not notice the distance. He was a most entertaining man, and he seemed to have travelled everywhere. We discovered two or three mutual acquaintances. He knew Nigel Buchanan. He had often met him at the "New Rovers," of which club they were both members. As we went along he commented upon the general desolation so plainly visible on all sides.

"It is a shame to neglect a place like this!" he said heartily. "But Verriker was one who never spent a penny save on himself. And so he is dead. By-the-bye, didn't I hear that he committed suicide?"

"Oh, no!" I exclaimed. "He was drowned while yachting. He—he——" I paused, for it suddenly struck me that I had never heard any particulars of Sir Jasper's demise. Mr. Ollett looked at me with keen penetrating eyes. "I don't know how the accident occurred, but I have always heard that he was drowned."

"Well, we will put the kindest construction on an awkward story," he said drily, and I noticed that his face had grown grave and set. "But Sir Jasper Verriker was an exceptionally fine swimmer, and he used to boast that he could do anything in the water save drown. He was a man who was always in difficulties, and I have reason to know that they crowded upon him at that particular time. I should say myself that he took the shortest way out of them."

In spite of the warm air I shivered at his words. We had ascended somewhat and from where we stood we had a very distinct view of the house. Mr. Ollett stopped and surveyed it keenly and intently.

"What a place!" he exclaimed. "I trust that you ladies do not live there alone? You have plenty of protection? Perhaps the new owner is in residence or some masculine relation of Lady Verriker's?"

"Oh, no! We depend for protection upon ourselves, two women servants, and a general factotum."

"Really! Yet I have always heard that Lady Verriker was very wealthy, and that it was one of Sir Jasper's griefs that he could not annex her personal income."

"I don't know," I said; and at that moment we turned into the principal avenue and came upon Roberts smoking in the door of the lodge, which was his place of abode. He was astonished to see me with a stranger, but he unlocked the gate.

Mr. Ollett watched his leisurely proceedings with much the same intentness which he had bestowed on the view of the house, and then bade me good day. He reiterated his thanks, and, mounting his bicycle, went off down the road. Roberts watched him out of sight reflectively.

"I've seed that chap before," he remarked, in his usual deliberate manner. "He were hanging about 'ere some three months ago, only he wore blue spectacles then and looked a bit different somehow."

"You must be mistaken," I said. "That is a very well-known gentleman, and he told me that he had never been here before. He did not know that Lady Verriker lived here."

"It were the same chap," Roberts persisted obstinately. "And he talked to me like a judge. He wanted to know everything about the place, and who were living 'ere and all about them. And if he told you he'd never been here before, miss, it were a lie—that's what it were!"

I went back to the house feeling distinctly uncomfortable, although I was convinced that Roberts was mistaken in his recognition of Mr. Ollett. I could not understand why a man of his position and importance should have any reason to deceive me. But the uncomfortable impression did not lessen, and I was quite relieved when I drew near to the house to see Lady Verriker standing at one of the windows, and evidently watching for me.

It was not until tea was nearly over that I ventured to tell her about Mr. Ollett. She looked up quickly and nervously, and her brows twitched.

"I'm afraid I took a tremendous liberty but as I knew who he was I thought that you would not mind. He's one of the best-known journalists in the world," I explained, seeing that the name evidently bore no meaning to her. "I hope you are not vexed?"

"Oh, no—it did not matter!" And she played nervously with her teaspoon. "I—I don't like strangers; but as you knew him——"

"Only by repute," I interrupted. "I had never met him before." She gazed at me with blanched cheeks, and I added hastily, "But he knew my father and other friends of mine!"

"Was he an Englishman?" she asked abruptly. "You—you are sure that he was English?"

"I think so. It never occurred to me that he was not. He spoke English perfectly, and he did not seem to have any accent."

She rose and went to the window, and stood for a time with her back to me.

"I'm afraid that I've vexed you?" I said. "I felt very hot and foolish and unreasonably angry with myself and everybody.

"Oh, no! It does not matter really! It was just a foolish alarm on my part!" She tried to smile. "I—I do so hate foreigners!" she added, and shuddered violently.

In spite of the little scene in her bedroom, I did not really become any more intimate with Lady Verriker. When a woman has shrouded herself for years in reserved silence she does not throw it off at once. But I understood her better, although I often felt very intolerant towards her. She was an exceedingly provoking woman in many ways. Her reserve, her timidity, her meekness, her obstinacy, her niggardly penny-saving habits were all in opposition to my own nature. But I remembered the miserable life which she had led, the troubles and wrongs which she had endured; I thought of Sir Adam, who had described her with such tenderness, and so I did my very best to be as friendly as possible with her. She seemed to see and to appreciate my efforts, although she made no attempt to return them.

It was in the evening that the time passed most pleasantly, when the curtains were drawn and the lamps were lighted. I would get my work—I was embroidering a cushion for a wedding present to a friend—and Lady Verriker would play to me for hours. I had never heard any one play as well as she did—there was such meaning in every note. It often seemed to me that in the music the true and real woman appeared, but only to die again when the music ceased.

Sometimes, when she was tired of playing, I could persuade her to talk a little of her early girlish days when she had known Sir Adam, and at such times some glow of her past youth would come back to her. She spoke very warmly of his goodness to her, and of their long friendship, and once she hinted what a grief it had been to her when the break came. She very rarely spoke of her life abroad. The recollection seemed to be very painful to her. Only once did she mention her husband.

I had been looking through a cabinet which contained photographs, and I came across an oval miniature of a very handsome man in uniform—a man with cold tired eyes, well-cut features, and a cynical smile under the light moustache. It was undoubtedly a handsome face, but it impressed me very disagreeably.

"What a handsome bad face!" I exclaimed involuntarily, as I held it up. "Who is it, Lady Verriker?"

"My husband!" she said, half under her breath. She looked at the painting as if in terror; then she suddenly took it from me, and threw it back into the drawer with a gesture almost of loathing. "Put it out of sight, Ethel," she said in a voice which was full of bitterness. "I would that I could forget as easily as I can do that!"

And I was very glad to obey her. There was that in Sir Jasper Verriker's face which made me feel very thankful that I had never seen him in the flesh.

CHAPTER IV

One night, when I had been at Verriker Court for a week, it had been later than usual when I had bidden Lady Verriker good night, but somehow I could not sleep. I tossed and turned in my bed, and at last got up in despair. I put on my dressing gown, and, drawing back the curtains, sat by the window for some time.

It was a fairly light night although the moon was invisible, and I could see the lake glimmering beneath the band of dark trees which bordered it on the other side, and the outlines of the boathouse.

It was not a very wise thing to do, for looking at the lake naturally recalled to my memory Robert's tale. I was quite fascinated by that long stretch of still water, until at last I could have persuaded myself that I saw some one moving near to the boathouse. My heart leaped to my mouth, but I could not stir. Surely—yes!—it was some one, and the next moment all doubt vanished, for I saw the black shadow suddenly projected across the path. I did not scream. I was too frightened to utter a sound. I simply rushed back into bed, and covered my head with the sheet.

I lay thus for some minutes before I could reason myself into a more sensible frame of mind and emerge from the suffocating warmth of the bedclothes. If there had been anyone at the boat house he or she could not harm me in my room, I told myself. But still I lay and trembled, when suddenly a shadow was cast over the window which I had left uncurtained, and I looked up. To my horror I saw that the upright figure of a man was silhouetted against the sky with an arm outstretched as if he were grasping the side of the window, while a curious scraping noise told me that he was trying to unfasten the lock.

I tried to scream, but my tongue refused to move. I felt powerless to stir hand or foot. I was sick and faint with terror, and could only watch that black form. I must have become partially unconscious, for my next impression was of being startled by hearing wild, terror-stricken screams from the direction of Lady Verriker's room, and I found that the figure had vanished from my window.

For a moment I hesitated; then, as the screams rose again in a very frenzy of terror, I sprang out of bed, and, with a courage which was born of desperation, rushed down the dark, silent corridor to Lady Verriker's room. I tried the door, but it was locked, and as I knocked the screams ceased with a weird abruptness.

"Lady Verriker!" I cried. "What is it? Let me in! Unlock the door!—and I hammered wildly on the panels. Not a sound came from the inside of the room, and I knocked and called again. I was almost beside myself with terror. "Lady Verriker—Lady Verriker!"

There was another pause; then her ladyship's voice answered. It was weak and faint, and scarcely audible.

"Who is there? What is the matter?"

"It is I—Ethel. Are you ill? is there anything wrong?"

There was another pause; then I heard her move, and presently the door was opened and I could see her small slight figure before me. The room behind her was in total darkness; it was impossible to see her face.

"You screamed so dreadfully!" I gasped. "Did you see the man?"

"What man?" she asked, with a sudden terror in her voice. She seized my arm, and held it with nervous fingers. "Is there—what do you mean, Ethel?"

But, before I could answer, a footstep sounded behind us, and a ray of light fell along the corrider. As I turned, Anne came into sight. She was holding a candlestick in her hand.

"I heard some noise!" she said in her ungracious voice. "Did one of you ladies call?"

Her candle flickered upon us, and I saw Lady Verriker's face. Her eyes were dilated, and her lips were white. She pressed my arm closely, almost warningly, I thought.

"It—it is nothing! I had one of my bad dreams, and—and screamed in my sleep. It startled Miss Fothergill. She had never heard me before!"

Anne muttered something under her breath.

"I thought some one must be ill," she said aloud, sulkily. "You'd best go back, my lady, or you'll be having a cold as well as bad dreams."

The woman's insolence irritated me, and I was on the point of making a cutting rejoinder when an extraordinary thing happened. A sound like a long, low, yet curiously distinct whistle seemed to come down the corridor. Lady Verriker and I grasped each other in teraor, and Anne dropped her candlestick with a sudden gasp, leaving us in darkness. In all my life I never heard such a strange uncanny sound. It was impossible to say whence it came, and yet it surrounded us. It ceased as suddenly as it began, and the silence seemed awful in its intensity.

"What was it—what was it?" I asked, while Lady Verriker clung to me in silent terror.

Anne evidently recovered herself with some difficulty, for she picked up the fallen candlestick and relighted the candle before she answered.

"It's what's called 'the Verriker warning,' miss," she answered; and Lady Verriker moaned in assent. "No one knows rightly what it is; but it's a warning—I know that! And woe betide us if we don't heed it!"

I saw her eyes gleam in the feeble light. There was a curiously exultant light on her stern face as she turned to her mistress.

"You'd best get back to bed, m'lady. You'll only catch cold, and you've no dressing-gown on. You're all right now, Miss Fothergill. You won't hear the warning again, and her ladyship won't dream any more."

"Lady Verriker." I exclaimed, "are you sure that it was only a dream? For indeed I saw a man try to open my window."

Anne laughed shortly.

"And did you see his wings too, miss?" she asked scoffingly. "For no mortal man could get up to your windows and stand there without them. I expect you've been dreaming too!"

"I am speaking to Lady Verriker," I said haughtily.

"But—but indeed I think Anne is right," her mistress said feebly. "You have been misled by a shadow or—or something. I think that we had better go back to bed. You—you see we really could not search the house. There are so many rooms, and we—we——"

"You lock your door, miss, and then you'll be all right," Anne broke in. "Come, m'lady—I'll see you comfortable before I go. Shall I go with you to your room, miss?"

But I turned and walked away without another word. Of one thing I was quite determined—not another night would I stay in that house.

It was nearly morning when I fell asleep, and when I woke at my usual time I found that the sun was shining brilliantly into my room, and I could see the waters of the lake dancing and rippling as if no cruel tradegy had ever ruffled their surface. I sprang out of bed and went to the window. There was certainly a very narrow ledge under it; but it grew broader between each embrasure, and extended, as I recollected, nearly the length of the house. To my mind it would be perfectly easy for a cool-headed person to walk along the entire length.

I dressed leisurely and went down to the breakfast-room, where I found Lady Verriker waiting for me. Her dull eyes were heavy and had black shadows under them, her face was whiter than usual and her nervous actions were very pronounced. The coldest, most formal of greetings passed between us, and it was not until we were alone that I announced my intention of leaving by the morning train. She stared at me incredulously, and then leaned back in her chair and put her hands up to her face, beginning to cry in a weak hopeless fashion. It was an awkward situation. I fidgeted with my plate and wished sincerely that I had never entered the Court.

"I—I am very sorry," I began, when she caught my hand between hers.

"Ethel, don't leave me!" she implored me almost frantically. "If you do, I shall go mad! A little more and I shall be driven out of my senses! Oh, I am a most miserable woman, and I haven't a friend in the world! I beg you to stay, Ethel! I will do anything that I can to make you happy if only you will stay. But I shall go mad if you leave me now! You don't know what my life is. You don't know what I have to endure; and your presence has been the only bright spot. Anne shall apologise——"

"I don't care a straw about Anne!" I interrupted vigorously. "But I feel so uncomfortable. I must speak plainly, Lady Verriker, ever if I hurt you. This house is wrapped in mysteries, and I don't like it. I have never been in such a strange place before, and I hope I never shall again!"

She shook her head slightly, and her despairing eyes gazed unseeingly throuh the window. She looked the embodiment of misery. I went to her and put my arm round her.

"Dear Lady Verriker, don't stay here," I said coaxingly. "Indeed this house, with all its unhappy associations, is very bad for you. You are letting your mind prey on things that are best forgotten. Forget the horrid unhappy past for my sake—and Sir Adam's," I added, half afraid of my own daring.

"If only I could!" she murmured hopelessly. "Oh, Ethel, bear with me a little longer! I am in great trouble, but it is not all my own, and I dare not tell any one. But perhaps some day—some day I shall be free—free!" she echoed with a long grasping sigh. "I have forgotten what freedom means!"

In the end I consented to remain, and I had my reward in seeing Lady Verriker's wan face brighten. She was very much engaged all that morning, and seemed to have a great deal of correspondence to do, so I went out into the gardens, ostensibly to sketch the house, but really with the idea of discovering how any one could have got up to the stone ledge that ran under my bed-room window. There seemed to be no possible way without a very long ladder, and even then I doubted if the coping could be reached, for it projected very unevenly. Yet I felt certain that I had not been deceived. I was convinced that I had actually seen a man at my window on the previous night.

I walked on until I had skirted two sides of the house. I found that the ledge terminated at the back where the kitchen offices were situated. There was a kind of courtyard on that side of the house which was formed by two rows of buildings—probably extra servants' rooms—which stood at right angles to the main block.

In the courtyard I found Roberts and the girl who was Anne's assistant. They were deep in a discussion, which came to a speedy end upon my appearance. The girl seized her bucket and broom and disappeared, and Roberts, touching his cap to me, went down the courtyard. A moment later I heard him exclaim and stop as if he saw something that surprised him.

"Blest if the wall hasn't come down!" he exclaimed.

He was standing at a gap between the out-buildings and the main block. The space was partially filled with a confused heap of bricks and stones. The discovery almost stunned me for a moment, for if that wall had united the two buildings last night, it would have been perfectly easy for any one to have climbed up to the roof of the wing and so to the beginning of the ledge which ran round the house, and most probably it was the additional weight of the climber that had caused the tottering wall to collapse.

But in that case, what had become of the man? It was anything but pleasant to think that he might even then be in hiding in the house, and I felt, as I went slowly back to the gardens, that I would have given all my fortune to have seen Sir Adams's tall strong form coming up the avenue, or to have known that Father or Nigel Buchanan was within calling distance.

But that afternoon an event occurred which drove all thought of burglars out of my mind. I was painting a glimpse of the lake as seen from a turn in the principal avenue, when the sound of wheels struck my ear. I looked up and was astounded to see a hired cab crawling toward the house. As it passed the fallen trunk upon which I sitting, its occupant leant foward, and I saw a shaggy white head and a pair of keen eyes set in a swarthy face.

My astonishment increased when, some time later, the cab returned from the house empty. The stranger, whoever he was, was evidently remaining at the Court. I felt strangely excited. A visitor would be a novelty in that gloomy house, and when tea-time drew near I went into the house with a keen sense of expectatian.

There were two or three portmanteaux in the hall, and as I put my paint-box and hat on the table I saw that the address, which was written in the flourishing caligraphy of a foreigner, was "Signor Sergali, Care of Lady Verriker." The bags were covered with foreign labels; the Signor had evidently come from the continent.

I went into the drawing-room. Lady Verriker was sitting in her customary place before the Pembroke tea-table, and the stranger was standing on the hearthrug. He was an old man, tall and thin, and stooped a great deal. He had a swarthy face that contrasted oddly with his upright white hair and pointed moustache. It would have been impossible not to have recognized him as an Italian. It was almost as evident that he was not a well-born one.

For some reason I took an instinctive dislike to the Signor. There was something repugnant in his appearance in the look which he shot at me from under his shaggy brows, and especially in the manner in which he spoke to Lady Verriker.

As I approached, he addressed her in Italian, of which I do not understand a word, but the tone was imperious to a degree.

I glanced at her quickly, for I wondered if she resented his manner as much as I did for her, and I was struck by the curious change that had come over her. She was never animated at the best of times, but now she seemed to have become a mere automaton, who spoke and moved with no volition of her own, but was impelled by some stronger will-power.

"Ethel, may I introduce Signor Sergali to you?" she said. She spoke mechanically and without expression, and looked past me into vacancy. "Miss Forthergill—Signor."

He bowed, watching me intently the while, and then made some remark in Italian.

"The Signor does not speak English," Lady Verriker said, as if she were translating. "He is going to spend a short time here. He has just come from Italy, and—and he knew Sir Jasper—my husband."

I made no remark. There was nothing for me to say, but as the Signor drew forward a chair for me—an act of politeness which I had not expected—I wondered if it was because of her acquaintance with Signor Sergali that Lady Verriker had declared her detestation of foreigners?

[TO BE CONTINUED]

WASHINGTON

March 9th is the date on which will be run the next Personally-Conducted Tour of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Washington. This tour will cover a period of three days affording ample time to visit all the principal points of interest at the National Capital, including the Congressional Library and the new Corcoran Art Gallery. Rate covering railroad transportation for the round trip and hotel accommodations, $13.00 or $10.50 from Trenton, and proportionate rates from other points, according to hotel selected. Rates cover accommodations at hotel for two days. Special side trip to Mount Vernon.

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REGISTER'S ORDER.

REGISTER OF WILLS OFFICE,
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DEL., Feb. 1, 1905

Upon the application of John A. David, Administrator of Benjamin F. David late of Blackbird Hundred, in said county, deceased, it is ordered and directed by the Register of Wills that the Administrator aforesaid give notice of granting of Letters of Administration upon the estate of deceased, with the date of granting thereof, by causing advertisements to be posted within forty days from the date of such letters in six of the most public places of the County of New Castle, requiring all persons having demands against the estate to present the same or abide by an act of Assembly in such case made and provided; and also cause the same to be inserted within the same period in THE MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT, a newspaper published in Middletown, Del., and to be continued therein two months.

Given under the hand and seal of office of the Register of Wills aforesaid, at Wilmington, in New Castle County aforesaid, the day and year above written.

(SEAL)

FRED E. BACH, Register of Wills.

NOTICE—Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration were in due form of law granted unto the undersigned on the First day of February A. D. 1905, and that all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased must present the same, duly attested to the said Administrator, on or before the First day of February 1906, or abide the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided.

JOHN A. DAVID,
Administrator.

Address, Taylors Bridge, Delaware.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY, SS.
THE STATE OF DELAWARE.
TO THE SHERIFF OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, GREETING:—

Whereas, Mary C. Connell, by her Petition to the Judges of our Superior Court, filed in the office of the Prothonotary of said Court in and for New Castle County, [Seal] for the cause of complaint therin alleged, has made application to our said Judges that a decree may be pronounced dissolving the marriage existing between the Petitioner and Michael F. Connell.

We, therefore, command you, as you were heretofore commanded, that you summon Michael F. Connell, that he be and appear before the Judges of our said Court at the next term thereof to be held at Wilmington, on Monday, the Twenty-thirdof May next to answer the allegations of the said petitioner, Mary C. Connell, according to the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, and also to do and receive what the Court shall then and there consider concerning him in this behalf as to the Court shall seem meet and consistent with the provisions of the said Act of Assembly.

And have you then there this writ.

Witness the Honorable Chas. B. Lore, at Wilmington, the Sixth day of February A. D. nineteen hundred and five.

FRANK L. SPEAKMAN,
Issued Feb. 13th, 1905. Prothonotary.

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83	85	89	21	91	93	97		STATIONS.	82	86	90	92	84	94		96
A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.			A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.		P.M.
‖ 5.50	‖ 7 40	‖ 10.16	‖ 2 05	‖ 5 00	‖ 5.59	‖ 11.05		Philadelphia	5.10	9 47	10.52	12 10	3.32	5.44		7.42
. .	‖ 5.00	‖ 6.55	‖ 12.01	‖ 12.35	‖ 4.00	‖ 6.50		Washington	7.20	11.32	1.20	1.42	6.10	8.15		9.44
‖ 4.10	‖ 6.35	7.56	1 08	2 30	4 57	7.50		Baltimore	6 07	‖ 10.31	‖ 11.25	‖ 12.35	‖ 5.0	‖ 7 10		‖ 8 40
‖ 7.28	‖ 8.38	‖ 10 58	‖ 3 00	‖ 2 44	‖ 8.02	‖ 11.50		Wilmington	4 15	8 42	10 05	11. 3	2.30	‖ 5.00		6.50
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f 7.48	h 8.46	. .	‖ 3 20	. .	f 7.10	. .		State Road	. .	8 21	. .	f 10 54	f 2.11	. .		f 6.31
7.53	f 8.51	. .	‖ 3 25	. .	7.15	. .		Bear	. .	8.16	. .	‖ 10 47	2.06	. .		6 27
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f 8.06	f 9.04	. .	. .	3.38	. .	f 7.27		Canal	. .	f 8.01	. .	. .	‖ 1.52	. .		f 6.13
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f 8.40	h 9 34	. .	4.12	. .	f 7 58	. .		Gr'n Spring	. .	f 7 29	. .	. .	f 1.22	. .		f 5 41
8.47	9 39	11 54	4.19	4 51	8 01	12 55		Clayton	6.08	7.25	9 00	10.03	1.18	3 51		5.37
8.57	9 49	11.44	4 09	4 41	7 52	. .		Smyrna Ju	. .	7.15	8.57	9 53	. .	3 45		5.27
f 8.52	h 9 44	. .	f 4.24	. .	f 8.06	. .		Brenford	. .	f 7.19	. .	‖ 9.57	1.13	. .		f 5.32
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9.00	. .	. .	f 4 32	. .	. .	. .		Dupont	. .	f 7.09	. .	. .	f 1.04	. .		. .
9.07	9 59	12.10	4.40	5 12	8 22	1.14		Dover	5.50	7.04	8 42	9.4	12. 9	3 38		5 18
9.13	10 03	‖ 12.16	4 46	5 19	8.30	f 1.22		Wyoming	‖ 4 43	6 57	8 36	9 16	12 52	3.32		5 11
f 9.19	h 10 11	. .	4 52	h 5 25	f 8 36	. .		Woodside	. .	6 50	e 8 [illegible]	f 9.29	12.46	. .		5 04
f 9.23	h 10 15	. .	4 5	h 5 29	f 8.40	. .		Viola	. .	f 6 45	e 8.25	f 9 24	12.42	. .		f 5 0
9.28	10 20	12.27	5 01	5 34	8.45	1.36		Felton	5.28	6 41	8 2	8.20	12 38	3 29		4 6
9.37	10 35	12.39	5 10	5.46	8 54	1.46		Harrington	5 18	6 32	8.12	‖ 11	12 29	3.11		1 47
. . .	‖ 10.38	. .	. .	‖ 5.50	. .	. .		Ha'f'g'n Ar	. .	. .	. .	8.52	. .	. .		. .
. . .	11.32	. .	. .	6.41	. .	. .		Georgetown	. .	. .	. .	8 06	. .	. .		. .
. . .	12 30	. .	. .	7.43	. .	. .		Berlin	. .	. .	. .	6.56	. .	. .		. .
								Ocean City								
. . .	. .	. .	. .	10.35	. .	. .		B C. & A. Ry)	. .	. .	. .	‖ 6 50	. .	. .		. .
. . .	f 10.42	. .	f 5.53	f 9.01	. .			Farmington	. .	. .	8.00	8.56	. .	. .		4 81
. . .	10.49	12 52	. .	6 00	9 08	. .		Greenwood	. .	. .	7.53	8.49	. .	2.5'		4 26
. . .	10 57	1.00	. .	6 08	9.16	2.08		Bridgeville	1.46	. .	7.45	8 4[illegible]	. .	2 47		4.18
. . .	h11 02	. .	. .	f 6 13	d 9.21	. .		Cannons	. .	. .	. .	f 7.39	f 8.35	. .		f 4 12
. . .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .		Ross	. .	. .	. .	f 7.44	. .	. .		. .
. . .	11 13	1.11	. .	6 2[illegible]	9 29	2.20		Seaford	1.33	. .	. .	7.31	8 27	. .		2 15	4 01
. . .	11.24	1.21	. .	6.31	9.39	2.32		Laurel	1 20	. .	. .	7.20	8 12	. .		2.25	3 46
. . .	11.34	1.31	. .	6.41	9 49	2 42		Delmar	1 08	. .	. .	‖ 7.10	‖ 8 01	. .		‖ 2 15	3.35
. . .	11.54	1.49	. .	7.00	. .	3.00	